भारत और चीन के संयुक्त कार्यक्रम की बैठक

407. **श्री अजीत जोगी :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सीमा विवाद के बारे में भारत और चीन के संयुक्त कार्यदल की जो बैठक 1990 में आयोजित की जानी थी, वह हो चुकी है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला है ?

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल मोरारका) : (क) जी हां, सीमा संबंधी भारत-चीन संयुक्त कार्यकारी दल का द्वितीय अधिवेशन और विदेश मंत्रालय के स्तर पर वार्षिक विचार-विमर्श नई दिल्ली में 30 और 31 अगस्त, 1990 को हुआ था ।

(ख) विचार-विमर्श के दौरान दोनों पक्षों ने सीमा के सवाल के समाधान के संदर्भ में एक दूसरे के दृष्टिकोण को ज्यादा अच्छी तरह समझा । दोनों पक्ष एक ऐसी व्यवस्था पर सहमत हुए जिसके अनुसार उनके सैनिक-कार्मिक समय-समय पर और उपयुक्त स्तर पर परस्पर मिलेंगे ताकि सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में शांति बनाई रखा जा सके । दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को और सुधारने के उपायों पर विचार-विमर्श हुआ तथा पारस्परिक हित के क्षेत्रीय और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मसलों पर भी विचार-विनिमय किया गया ।

Affairs of MTNL

408. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering dissolution of MTNL due to its non-performance etc.;

(b) whether Government are aware that MTNL's rental and charges are the highest in the Third World and in line with or higher than countries like Norway; and

(c) whether Government are aware that MTNLs' services have not improved so far in spite of various measures taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) No Sir, Government is not considering dissolution of MTNL due to its non-performance. However, a High Level Committee has been set up for recommending the most appropriate organisational structure in the Department of Telecom (including MTNL) keeping in view the operational and developmental needs of Telecom services and financial implications etc.

(b) There is no published data available for the telephone tariffs in all the Third World countries. As per the data available for tariffs in some of the important countries in the World, as on January 1, 1988, the telephone tariffs in India were at the median level and much lower than in many countries.

(c) No Sir, there has been significant improvement in the services in the areas under MTNL over the last 4½ years.

Traffic in Tuticorin Port

409. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans to provide additional facilities to increase the foreign and coastal traffic and to improve the container traffic in the Tuticorin Port; and

(b) whether Tuticorin Port Trust has taken steps to attract more international ships to its port and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) To facilitate increase in traffic certain additional facilities are contemplated in the 8th Plan. The 8th Plan outlay has not as yet been finalised. The facilities contemplated are:

1. Construction of Additional Coal Jetty for handling thermal coal, one more General Cargo Berth adding to the existing six alongside berths and additional warehouses.

2. Procurement of Container Handling Equipments, Front End Loader of 4.3 Cu.M.

3. Provision of Move Refeer Plug Points at storage points, Electronic Weigh Bridges and Container Freight Stations.

4. Conversion of the existing Meter Gauge Railway Line into Broad Gauge Line within Port limit, introduction of Night Pilotage and balance dredging in the Approach Channel so as to facilitate entry of Deep Drafted Vessels.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Port to attract more international ships :

1. Port charges have been made competitive.

2. Formation of Shippers Service Cell and Importers and Exporters Committee.

3. Publicity through Press and personal contacts, holding of trade promotion meetings.

4. Inducing private entrepreneurs to establish container freight station and other storage facilities.

5. Priority berthing is accorded to Container Ships and Phosphoric Acid Tankers.

Linking of Krishna and Godavari rivers with Cauvery

410. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Govrenment have requested the Central Government to take up the project of linking Krishna and Godavari rivers with Cauvery river to prevent the frequent floods in Andhra Pradesh and to generate employment; and

(b) if so, what action has so far been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement between Modi Group and Alcatel of France for manufacture of E.I.O. Exchanges

411. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the joint venture agreement entered into between Modi Group and Alcatel of France for the manufacture of E.I.O. Exchange;

(b) whether the Alcatel of France have offered the 1990 technology to the Modi Group;

(c) whether Government are aware that the same French company have offered to give only 1987 technology to Indian Telephone Industries for upgrading the existing technology;

(d) whether it is a fact that only 6 lakhs lines in E.I.O. Exchanges are required per annum and Mankapur unit of Indian Telephone Industry has got a production capacity of 5 lakhs lines per annum and if so, the reasons for which additional production was permitted in the private sector; and

(e) what are the steps taken to produce small and medium size exchanges required for rural areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has received an application from M/s. Indian Reprographics Ltd. for a joint venture with ALCATEL of France for production of their latest Digital Switches.

(c) Yes, Sir.